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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/077,496	02/15/2002	Ross Tsugita	1001.1422103	5372
28075	7590	07/14/2004		EXAMINER
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC 1221 NICOLLET AVENUE SUITE 800 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420				BUI, VY Q
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/077,496	TSUGITA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Vy Q. Bui	3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 38-50 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 42 and 44 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 38-41, 43 and 45-50 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election without traverse of invention shown in Fig. 7, 12 and 16A in the reply filed on 5/18/2004 is acknowledged. Claims 38-41 and 43, 45-50 read on the elected invention. Claims 42 and 44 do not read on the elected invention, therefore are withdrawn from further consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

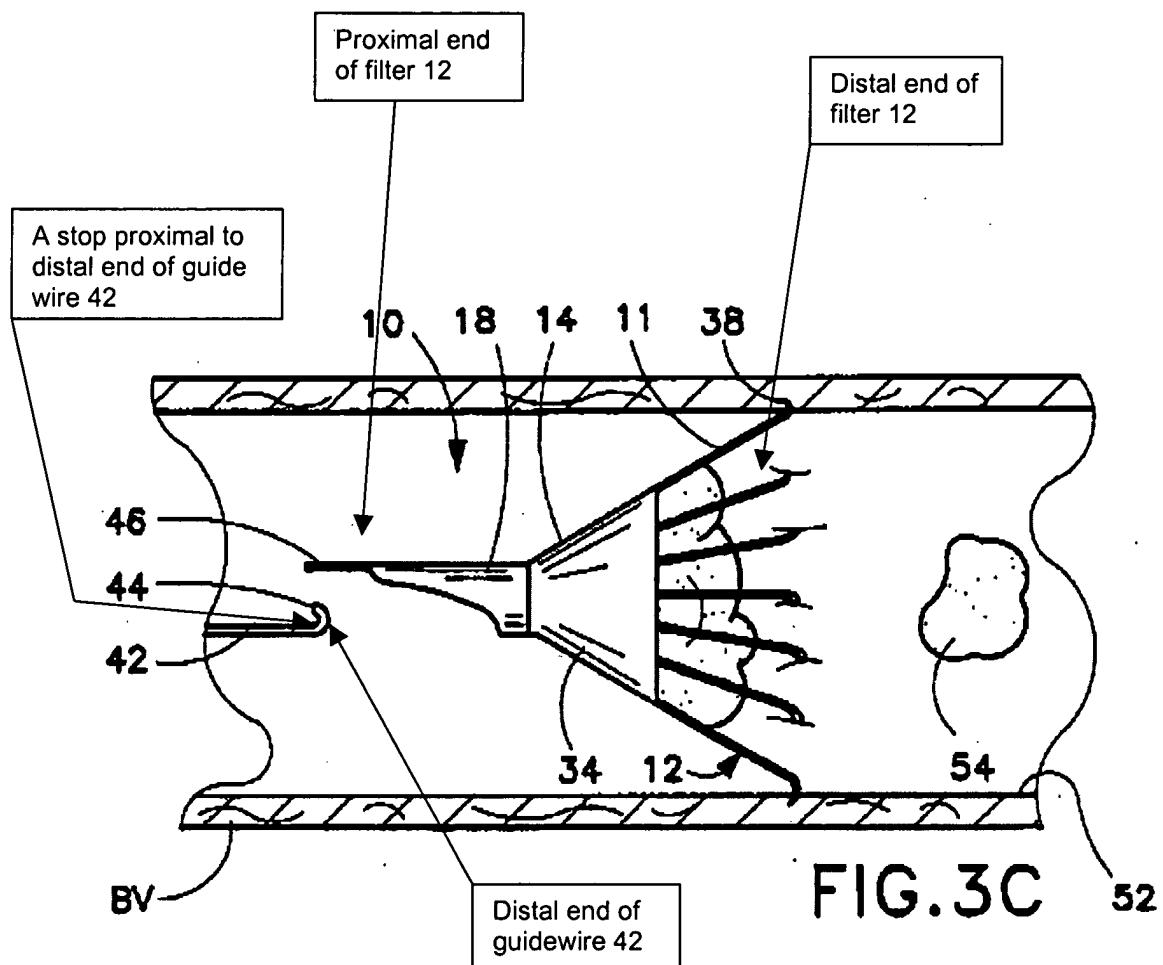
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 38-41, 43 and 45-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GELBFISH (5,800,457).

As to claims 38-41, 43, 45, 47-48 and 50, GELBFISH (Figs. 1-3D) discloses self-expandable filter 12 having finger 46 extending distally from distal sleeve 18 of filter 12 and guidewire 42 having a stop proximal to the distal end of guidewire 42 and sheath 26 for delivering filter 12 as recited in the claims. Notice that the distal end portion/sleeve 18 of filter 12 is capable of being slid along guidewire 42 over stop/hook/stop-receiving member 44 from a first position proximal to the stop to a second position distal to the stop 44 as indicated in the following reproduced drawing 3C:



2. Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over GELBFISH (5,800,457).

As to claim 46, GELBFISH discloses stop/hook 44 defining a first diameter, distal end portion of filter 12 defining a diameter larger than the first diameter, and the proximal end/finger 46 of filter 12 defining a diameter smaller than the first diameter.

Alternatively, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to configure GELBFISH device as recited in the claim, for this would be one obvious choice of design.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over GELBFISH (5,800,457).

GELBFISH discloses substantially all structural limitations as recited in the claim, except for the stop including first and second tubular members. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to configure GELBFISH device as recited in the claim, for this would be one obvious choice of design.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vy Q. Bui whose telephone number is 703-306-3420. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, McDermott or Shaver can be reached on 703-308-0858. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


07/12/04

Vy Q. Bui
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3731